

Claim Listing

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A configurable overhead console for a vehicle, the overhead console comprising:

a headliner having a structural support member ~~with a beam having three channels including two outboard channels and a central channel~~ extending longitudinally above the headliner substantially concealed from a vehicle occupant and having a plurality of attachment apertures spaced along the support member, the headliner having a plurality of attachment apertures aligned with the attachment apertures extending through the central channel of the support member and adapted to receive corresponding modules positioned below the headliner each module supported by at least one fastener extending through the attachment apertures of the headliner and support member.

2. (Original) The configurable overhead console of claim 1 wherein the headliner further comprises at least one positioning aperture associated with each of the plurality of attachment apertures.

3. (Original) The configurable overhead console of claim 2 further comprising:

at least one module having at least one positioning pin that cooperates with the at least one positioning aperture and a latching device that cooperates with at least one of the attachment apertures of the headliner and structural support member to secure the module to the headliner.

4. (Original) The configurable overhead console of claim 3 wherein the latching device of the at least one module is rotatable to secure the module to the headliner and structural support member.

5. (Currently Amended) The configurable overhead console of claim 1 wherein the structural support member comprises a beam having three channels including two outboard channels and a central channel extending longitudinally above the headliner ~~is substantially concealed from a vehicle occupant.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The configurable overhead console of claim 1 wherein the structural support member further comprises two diagonally positioned alignment apertures for each of the plurality of attachment apertures aligned with corresponding alignment apertures in the headliner.

7. (Original) The configurable overhead console of claim 6 further comprising an electrical conductor extending along each side of the plurality of attachment apertures and extending at least partially over the alignment apertures to engage alignment pins during installation of a powered module.

8. (Currently Amended) A configurable overhead console system comprising:

a headliner having a plurality of console module attachment holes spaced along a central axis to accommodate a plurality of console modules, the attachment holes being spaced several times the length of any one of the attachment holes to inhibit folding of the headliner along the central axis during handling and assembly of the headliner;

a support structure having a bottom surface secured to a top surface of the headliner to be substantially concealed from view of a vehicle occupant, the support structure including module attachment holes corresponding to the module attachment holes of the headliner and a top surface attachable to a vehicle roof; and

~~at least one~~ a plurality of console modules each having a latching device that extends through attachable to the headliner and at least one corresponding ~~an~~ attachment hole of the support structure to secure ~~each~~ the console module to the support structure after installation.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the console module includes a rotatable latching device that secures the console module to the support structure with less than one complete revolution of the latching device.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

12. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the headliner and support structure include at least one positioning hole for each attachment hole to inhibit rotational movement of an installed console module.

13. (Original) The system of claim 8 further comprising a blank plate having a fixed attachment device for engaging and concealing at least one attachment hole where a console module is not installed.

14. (Original) The system of claim 8 further comprising an electrical conductor integrated with the support structure along each side of the attachment holes to distribute power to installed console modules.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for assembling a configurable overhead console system, the method comprising securing ~~at least one~~ a plurality of console modules to a support structure positioned above a headliner, the support structure and headliner having a plurality of attachment apertures with each attachment aperture having associated diagonally positioned positioning holes that cooperate with corresponding positioning pins of the console module, wherein the step of securing the console module includes aligning the diagonally positioned alignment pins on the console module with corresponding diagonally positioned alignment holes in the support structure and inserting at least one fastening device associated with each module through the headliner to engage the support structure.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising securing at least one blank plate to the support structure via one of the attachment apertures in a location where no console module is installed.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of securing at least one console module to the support structure comprises securing a console module to the support structure using a single rotatable latching device.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of securing at least one console module to the support structure comprises securing a console module to the support structure by rotating a latching device less than one complete revolution.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising establishing an electrical connection to the console module by contacting electrical conductors embedded within the support structure with electrical contacts integrated with positioning pins of the console module during installation of the console module.

20. (Canceled).